

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE DEBT, AND THOSE WHO ARE GRAVELED BY ITS REDUCTION.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

There was a large class of politicians and journalists among us who, throughout the war for the Union, persisted in doubting or belittling every Union victory that they could not absolutely deny. The same class, by a curious coincidence, are now fighting the reduction of our national debt as though it badly hurt them.

One of them says:— "The following is a correct statement of the amount of the public debt at different periods, from the 1st of April, 1865, until the 1st of July last:—

September 1, 1865, \$2,366,025,071
November 1, 1865, 2,501,504,450
November 1, 1866, 2,527,129,832
July 1, 1867, 2,645,150,295
From this it will be seen that the amount of the debt having been diminished, it has been augmented during the last four years. It is now nearly three hundred millions more than it was on the 1st of April, 1865.

Why should this enemy of the national integrity and solvency go back to April 1, 1865, for a basis of comparison? Richmond was then a Rebel capital; Lee still commanded a formidable, defiant Rebel army; John Johnston another; Dick Taylor a third; and such patriots as the writer of the above extract were still predicting and protesting that the Rebellion would never be put down.

The twenty-seven hundred and fifty-seven millions reported on the 1st of September following was the amount of the liquidated debt, after deducting the cash in the Treasury. Every official statement since made has been computed in the same way. And why not? In what sense are greenbacks in the national strong-box as balancing a like amount of outstanding greenbacks?

We do trust haste will be made in using that coin to pay off public debt. When the bonds have been called in, redeemed, and cancelled or deposited in the sinking fund, it will be hard to make even a Copperhead believe that we still owe them. So hurry up the use of the public money in payment of the public debt!

Another carper says:— "Mr. Boutwell informs us that the sum of the public debt on August 1, 1869, was \$2,481,266,736, as per column 1. This shows a steady decrease against the sum similarly arrived at for the preceding months; in other words, that the debt has steadily fallen since he came into office. To arrive at this result he not only takes the four preceding cash and bonds in the Treasury, and the premium and accrued interest on the latter, but the Pacific Railroad bonds, amounting to sixty millions. To partially all the vast deduction thus made, he adds on the accrued interest of the whole debt, which of course varies from day to day, but was, on the 1st August, 1869, thirty-three and three-quarter millions."

Well, why not "add on the accrued interest"? Do we not owe it? Must we not pay it? What is public debt, if the accrued interest on our bonds, specifically payable in coin at an early day, is not?

So of the bonds advanced to the Pacific Railroads. Those roads are pledged to pay them, principal and interest; we presume they will pay most of them. If any should default, the Treasury must make good the deficiency. It will be time to assume that load when it shall be piled upon us. For the present, let us state our own debt by itself, and assume that of the railroads when we must.

THE "WORLD" AND THE WOMEN.

From the N. Y. World.

When the World some time since ventured to suggest to our advocates of woman's rights that their proceedings did not show as much sense as those of their English sisters, the Revolution heaped foul scorn upon it for so suggesting. But the wisdom of the World has been amply vindicated since. Here have the women been holding a convention in Newport, where at this season the whole female population, resident and transient, is joined to its idols of dress and flirtation, and would, by a wise woman suffrage association, be let alone until the fit had passed. Not only have they been holding a convention in Newport, which was itself an imbecility, but we are constrained and grieved to say that much imbecility was uttered there. For instance, they had the ambrosial Theodore Tilton as one of the orators, and, with characteristic irrelevancy, that hero brought Mrs. Stowe's article about Lady Byron into his oration. Mrs. Stowe had just ruined herself, in the opinion of the convention, by writing it a letter advising it to "respect some of the antiquated views of St. Paul about the right relations of men and women, and particularly to enact that 'the man is the head of the woman, as Christ is the head of the Church.'" This doctrine, so monstrous and revolting to the strong-minded apprehension, was received with a silent disgust which would have condemned Mrs. Stowe to eternal exile from the councils of the best and breeched, if T. T. had only left well enough alone, and not been so insane as to introduce a disparaging article on the particulars of a story which is a tit-bit under the tongue of a prudent scandal. Then, as was natural and inevitable, the convention rushed to the defense of the authoress whom they would have abandoned, and turned on Tilton to read him. As the poet Whittier wrote to defend Mrs. Stowe, forgiving the heresy of that lady on the trivial and temporary subject of suffrage for her orthodoxy on the vast and eternal subject of scandal. That a man should endeavor to abridge the publication of scandal was too much, and the editor of the Independent was a despised detractor, though sound on suffrage, while Mrs. Stowe, though shaky, so to speak, on suffrage, was a cherished benefactor.

Therefore the question arises, Why was the absurd Tilton, who revolts the prime instincts of womanhood, invited to a woman's suffrage convention at all? When the World advised the women to get male advocates, it by no means meant that they should get Tiltons. No; it meant the kind of men that Mrs. Vosburgh spoke the other night of when she said that, after she had in vain impudently whole corps of female compositors to sign a petition, a good-looking young man took her paper, in pity, and secured every signature. Of such are he are the real coadjutors for the women of America.

THE CHINESE-BURLINGAME TREATY.

From the N. Y. Herald.

The telegraphic news which we published on Thursday to the effect that the Government at Peking had refused to ratify the treaty made by Mr. Burlingame with the United States, must be received with a great deal of suspicion. It comes from Hong Kong, by the way of London, and therefore through British hands all the way. It has the impress of the old British party in China, which has been bitterly hostile to Mr. Burlingame and his mission from the first. As to all the talk about the mission being minimal to the Chinese people, it is bald rubbish. The parties who make such representations mean by the people of China themselves, and perhaps a limited number of Chinese at Hong Kong and the seaboard towns as well. And it is possible that there may be in the empire a considerable party of old Chinese Tories, which opposes any progress or innovation. But Prince Kung, the enlightened statesman who appointed Mr. Burlingame and gave him instructions what to do, is still the Regent of China, and we know that the government there is absolute, at the same time that it is paternal in character. We believe Mr. Burlingame is too sagacious to exceed his instructions or to do what would be inimical to the Government he represents. Indeed, the objection made to him here and in Europe has been that he was too much of a Chinaman. Then, these reports are more doubtful when we consider that the treaty with the United States was made fifteen months ago and that the text of it must have been in the hands of the Chinese Government a year, or nearly so. Would it take a year for that Government to come to a conclusion on such an important matter? Would Mr. Burlingame have been permitted to go on all this time making treaties similar in character with the European powers? Such a supposition is incredible. Nor can we believe the report that the American Minister at Peking, Mr. J. Ross Browne, has expressed himself in the manner stated with regard to the Burlingame mission. No man in his senses in his position would have been guilty of thus acting against the interests of his country and the liberal policy inaugurated by the Chinese Embassy. The whole story has on the face of it the stamp of a British canard, emanating from the old opium smugglers and enemies both of the United States and Chinese progress. We must regard it with great suspicion, and wait for further news before coming to a decision.

THE ROYAL GRANDEUR OF ROBESON.

From the N. Y. Sun.

There is pleasant news from the United States pleasure steamer Tallapoosa. It reached Boston on Wednesday, by way of Newport and Naushon, with Admiral Porter, General Sherman, and Secretary Robeson, all safe and well, on board.

The telegram which reports their happy arrival in Boston also informs us that the party stopped for two days at the island of Naushon, the beautiful summer residence of Mr. John M. Forbes. This visit must have been a delightful variation from the tedious routine of official duty in the oppressive climate of Washington, and the taxpayers who pay something like a thousand dollars a day to run the Tallapoosa, will also be delighted to think that their money—they make it without labor or privation, of course—is able to contribute so much to the happiness of these high officials. The only thing they will regret is that the cost of the Tallapoosa to the national Treasury is so trifling, if it were only ten thousand dollars a day, it would not be too much for the glorification of so great a man as Secretary Robeson. The New York Times has certified that General Grant is a sovereign; and as Secretary Robeson is one of his Cabinet ministers, it is not too much that he should have a vessel that the people own and pay for to travel about in on his pleasure excursions in genuine royal style. It is true that some poor men who have hard work to pay their taxes, and some mean men who do not admire all this high official splendor, may grumble; but what of that? They are not worth minding.

Perhaps, however, before the Senators decide to confirm the nomination of Mr. Robeson as Secretary of the Navy, they may wish to inquire into his authority to spend a thousand dollars a day of the people's money in his summer pleasure trips. We can assure the honorable Senators in all seriousness that this subject needs investigation, and that such royal aims and royal extravagance as Robeson puts on need rebuke. It is had enough to have every member of the Executive away from the seat of government; but to have them sailing about in public vessels at the public expense, like so many princes of the blood, is an insult to the public patience, in which Senators will do well not to become partners.

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